

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 9, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 9, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are privileged and thankful, O God, that we can begin a new day with these words of prayer. With gratefulness for the wonder and beauty and glory of Your creation; with appreciation for friends who care for us and support us in our every need; with enthusiasm for the honor of being called to serve the people of our Nation; with joy for the opportunities to live and breathe the meaning of faith and hope and love, we offer these words of thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1000) "An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that there will be 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

BABY BODY PARTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there is a doctor in Illinois who produced the following advertisement. It reads, "Fresh fetal tissue harvested and shipped to your specifications, where and when you need it."

It also reads: "Liver, spleen, pancreas, intestines, kidney, brain, lungs," and I will not read them all, "with appropriate discounts that apply if specimen is significantly fragmented."

And at the bottom it says, "All that you need to initiate service is a purchase order number, payment type, and your billing address."

Mr. Speaker, this is horrific. These are body parts of babies sold on the open market like toys or collectibles. This is a violation of law. Selling body parts of babies is wrong, it is unethical, it is illegal, it is dangerous to the women from whom these body parts are taken and it must stop. The administration must enforce the law. We do not live in Nazi Germany. There is a hearing at 2 o'clock before the Committee on Commerce. I hope, Mr.

Speaker, this practice will be stopped in America.

INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled today that there is going to be real debate on whether or not we are going to raise the minimum wage by one dollar over 2 years or 3 years. We are talking about present minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour. Can we imagine that in the greatest economy that we have ever known? Persons who are heads of these companies are making multi-million-dollar salaries per year and the ones who make them get there cannot even get a dollar raise in minimum wage. These are working mothers who have to pay child care, shelter, food, transportation. Most do not even have health care, so we have to pay that as taxpayers. I cannot believe this Nation ought to be outraged that we are debating whether or not we are going to raise minimum wage by one dollar, just one dollar, over a 2-year or a 3-year period. That is unconscionable. I do not know anyone in any State that can live on minimum wage and take care of all of their responsibilities. Their responsibilities become ours.

AID FOR COLOMBIA

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, there are those who compare providing aid to Colombia to providing aid to Vietnam. This is an expected but faulty comparison.

Unlike Vietnam, the consequences for failure in Colombia will not be another fallen domino in a far-off land. It will be more drug-related deaths in our own streets among our own children. Without immediate action on the proposed aid package to Colombia, the drug lords will continue, largely unimpeded, to produce and distribute their deadly drugs which kill almost as many American kids and young adults each year as died in Vietnam. That, Mr. Speaker, should be a wake-up call.

Because Colombia is right here in our own hemisphere and not halfway around the world, what happens there will affect us more profoundly than what happened in Vietnam. The fact

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.